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**MISSISSIPPI STATE PERSONNEL BOARD APPROVES REDUCTION IN FORCE REQUEST FROM
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

January 5, 2011, JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi State Personnel Board today approved a request from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health for a reduction in force based upon shortage of work.

The Department of Mental Health reduction in force affects 80 filled positions and 6 vacant positions within East Mississippi State Hospital, 9 filled positions and 1 vacant position within North Mississippi State Hospital, and 8 filled positions and 3 vacant positions within South Mississippi State Hospital. According to the Department of Mental Health, the Reduction in Force is necessary based upon a contract with a private vendor to privatize the agency's dietary/food service.

"The Mississippi State Personnel Board has determined that the Mississippi Department of Mental Health has followed the proper policies and procedures for implementing its reduction in force based on shortage of work," said Lynn Fitch, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

The Mississippi State Personnel Board serves more than 30,000 public employees and 140 state agencies, and also houses the Personal Service Contract Review Board and Employee Appeals Board. For more information, please visit <http://www.mspb.ms.gov>.